AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The Central Department of Tourism does not have a scheme to declare any place as a national tourism centre.

Shortage of Water in the Country

6271. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SING: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several parts of the country are facing serious water shortage of drinking as well as for irrigation purposes despite surplus water;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is being due to the lack of effective water management;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(e) the details of the strategies proposed to be adopted in Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). The availability of water in the country varies from place to place and is not spread uniformly all over country, creating pockets of scarcity of floods. Because of the wide variation in the availability of water in different areas of the country, it is difficult to meet with all requirements of water in drought-prone and other water short areas. For mitigating the hardships of water short areas, Government of India has prepared national perspectives for transfer of water from surplus areas to water-deficit areas. National Water Development Agency is engaged in carrying out these studies.

(e) In the 8th Plan, thrust is proposed to be given on completion of on-going Schemes, carrying out detailed surveys and investigations for preparation of project reports for transfer of water from surplus to water-short areas, adoption of better irrigation practices through training of farmers in irrigated agriculture, and gearing up of development of Command Areas, modernisation of tanks, bringing economy in the use of water, conservation of water through extension of watershed development programme.

Telegu News Bulletin from Doordarshan

6272. SHRI DHARAMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to introduce Telegu news bulletin from Doordarshan, Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad is already telecasting a daily news bulletin in Telegu.

Post Offices with Speed Post Facility in Kerala

6273. SHRI P. C THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the details of post offices having speed post facility in Kerala; and

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be provided with this facility in near future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The following